THE COMIC READER

35¢

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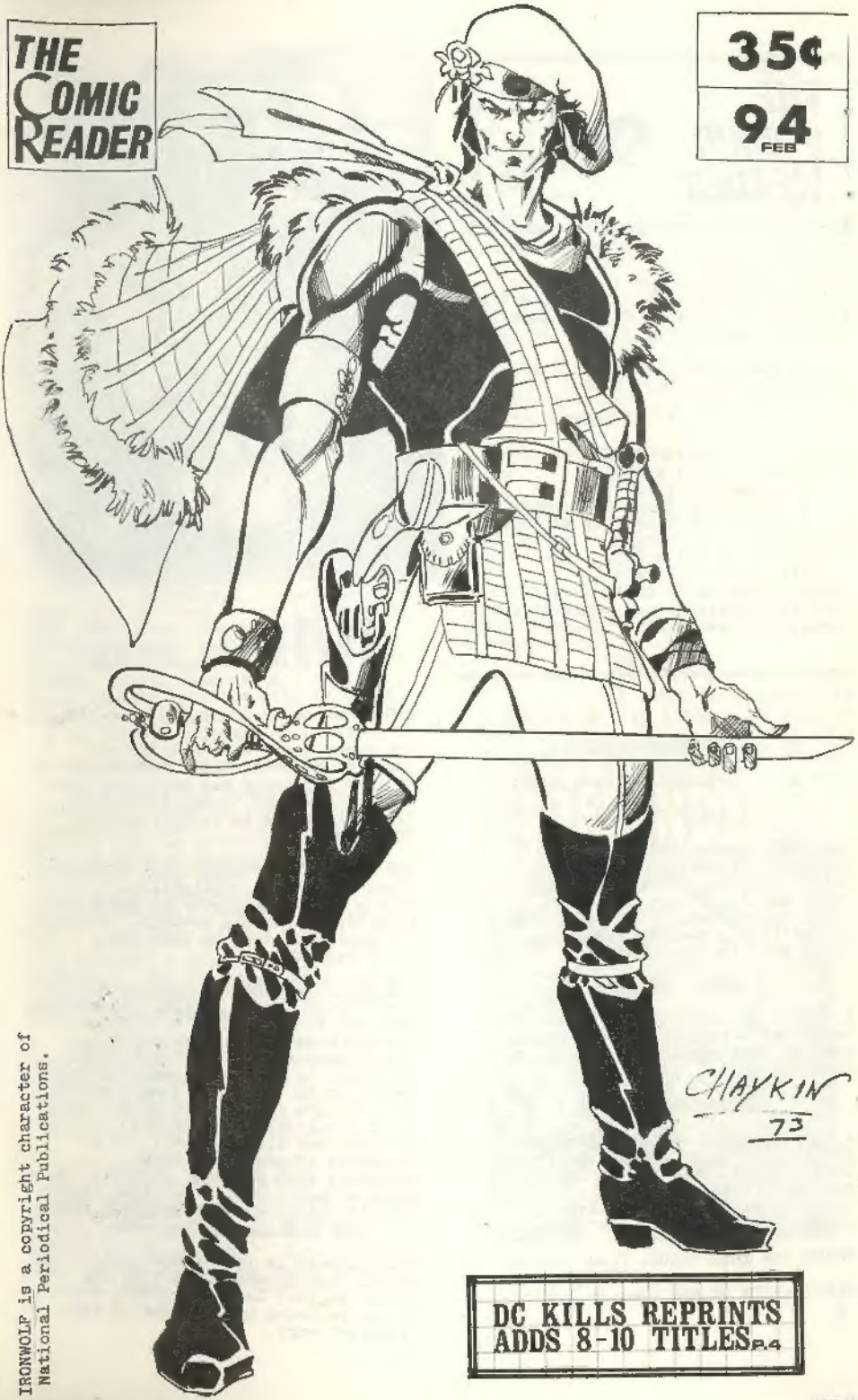

DC KILLS REPRINTS ADDS 8-10 TITLES p.4

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THE COMIC READER 94

FEB. 1973

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MARVEL NEWS

SPOOF has been cancelled. It will be replaced in Marvel's line-up by a new humor title with a different theme in a few months. Several stories for Spoof had been completed, but are now lost to the inventory files including Marie Severin's "Kung Pooey!"

THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN has been upped to monthly publication, mainly because everyone at Marvel is so pleased with the product. It is too early for them to have any sales reports.

THE BLACK PANTHER is going to be the new star of Jungle Action. In keeping with Roy Thomas' plans to eventually include some original material in the non-super-hero reprint titles, this will be a 10-page lead feature, backed up by the Atlas jungle material that now is the full book. The strip is slated to be by Don McGregor and Rich Buckler. It'll run about 10 pages per issue, beginning with #6. #5, listed in this month's Coming Comics section, leads into the strip with an Avengers reprint under a Black Panther logo.

Gerry Conway is taking over Kull again. Roy Thomas did not do any issues as last issue reported, due to the pressing commitments of his editorial work.

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CONAN will be done by the art team of John Buscema and Ernie Chua in the future, but with a difference. Starting with the fifth or sixth John Buscema issue, Buscema will only be doing layouts and Chua will be doing the finished art,on at least one issue.

IN THE BLACK & WHITE DEPARTMENT:

The third black & white will be TALES OF THE ZOMBIE, and it will be released in April. Most of the stories will be oriented towards the walking dead or Voodoo characters. The first issue leads off with a story which integrates new material by Steve Gerber, John Buscema and Tom Palmer with a reprint of one of Bill Everett's best art jobs from the fifties, a story entitled "Zombie." The character will become a regular character in future issues, although with shorter stories.

The fourth title, and the last one definitely set at this time, is going to be VAMPIRE TALES. This book will also contain a regular strip, but Roy isn't ready to release it yet. Any guesses?

The second issue of DRACULA LIVES! will contain a Marv Wolfman and Neal Adams origin of Dracula, plus a Gene Colan and Dick Giordano Dracula story in which he meets "The Voodoo Queen Of New Orleans." Both stories, for fans of former TCR cover artists, are lettered by Alan Kupperberg.

Steve Gerber and Jim Starlin contribute another story of the Count, except in this one he never gets out of his coffin. The story takes place in World War 2, when the Nazis were oppressing the gypsies, and while Drac was still "dead" as a result of Ven Helsing's efforts. There's also a Chris Claremont article on "Who Is Bram Stoker And Why Is He Saying These Terrible Things About Me?"

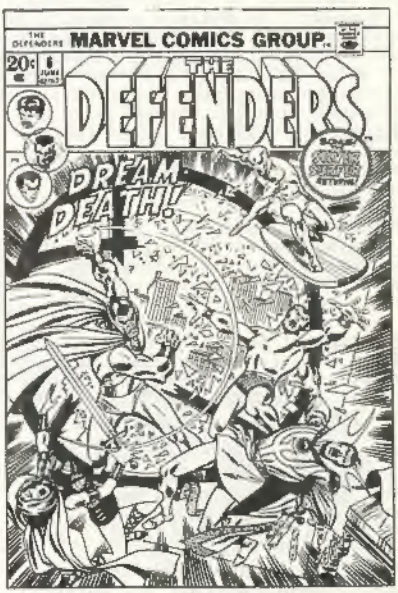
The last part of the Kang-Tomorrow Man War story that's been running in Marvel Team-Up will feature Spider-Man and The Inhumans.

Upcoming in Marvel Feature, the "Thing &" team-up book, are episodes co-starring Sub-Mariner and The Man-Thing.

Len Wein is writing an issue of Thor.

Tony Isabella's first story was illustrated by Paul Reinman and will appear in Chamber of Chills #5.

Howie Chaykin is no longer doing War Of The Worlds after the second installment. No replacement has been chosen yet.



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Instead of publishing reprint annuals this summer, Marvel will be upping the frequency on a number of their titles to 7 or 8 times a year. That will make the books monthly during the summer. Last year this was done on about four or five of the reprint titles and this year a number of the original material issues (like The Defenders) will have extra issues too. I don't have a list of which books yet, but I hope to have one in a month or so.

Werner Roth is doing a fill-in issue or two of Werewolf by Night, as Roy resumes his policy of getting fill-in issues of each title on the shelf.

Speaking of the fill-in issues, Jay Scott Pike (remember him? He does a lot of romance work. His most recent super-hero type material was The Dolphin, for Showcase a number of years back.) will probably do a fill-in issue of Shanna. Alan Weiss has completed both pencils & inks on his fill-in issue of Captain America and it is now on the schedule.

Don Heck is taking over the art chores on Sub-Mariner and Daredevil.

NATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL KILLS THEIR REPRINT LINE, REPLACES BOOKS WITH NEW TITLES.

All of NPP's reprint titles, with the exception of the 100-Page Super-Spectaculars, Boy Commandos, Black Magic, and, temporarily, Secret Origins, have been cancelled. An exact run-down of the cancellations appears in an inset box on this page. The remaining titles will continue for the predictable future.

The first new NPP book, as mentioned last issue, is Plop, Joe Orlando's magazine of weird humor. It will be on sale in mid-June. Steve Skeates is doing a lot of writing for it, among others. The cover is a very weird one, which I'll preview next month. It's a bi-monthly mag.

After that comes a revival -- Strange Sports Stories. Julie Schwartz is going to edit this sixties series (which debuted in Brave & Bold #45-49 and was later reprinted in a series of DC Specials). The unique idea of using silouettes in captions will continue to be used. SSS will be rotated among Schwartz's writers and artists as their schedules permit. Curt Swan did the pencils on the two stories in the first issue, with Frank Robbins scripts. Denny O'Neil already has a story in for the second issue. This is another bi-

TABLE OF CANCELLATIONS

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN: Last issue #80, the third, on sale in March.

THE DOOM PATROL: Last issue #124, the third, on sale in March.

FOUR STAR BATTLE TALES: Last issue #5, on sale in August.

G.I. WAR TALES: Last issue #4, on sale in July.

JOHNNY THUNDER: Last issue #3, on sale in April.

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES: Last issue #4, on sale in April. Legion freaks should not despair. Take a peek in the news section.

THE METAL MEN: Last issue #44, the third, on sale in April.

WANTED -- THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS VILLAINS: Last issue #9, on sale in May.

monthly, with the first issue in June. There is a slight change in the emphasis of the strange, though. In the sixties the accent was on science fiction, now it is more fantasy and mystery.

Coming in May is Prez, the Joe Simon book which I cover-previewed last issue. It's almost impossible to describe, However, it is the story of Prez Rickard, the first teen president of the USA. There are all sorts of weird supporting characters floating around too, like an Indian boy who becomes the chief of the FBI. It'll be bi-monthly and the first issue will be out May 17.

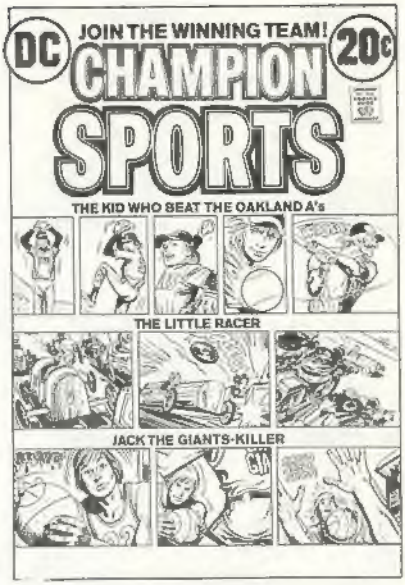
Simon is also bringing out Champion Sport Stories, a bi-monthly which will appear in the months that Strange Sports is off the stands. No one seems to know very much about this mag, except that it will be devoted to straight sports features. There's a cover preview in this issue.

The upcoming new Kubert book that I've mentioned from time to time will be released towards the end of the year, when Kubert has caught up to his schedule.

A limited collectors' edition of Shazam! will be issued around the end of April. This will be a $1 book in the same format as the Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer item that NPP produced last October. It will be 10" x 13½", and will reprint six golden age stories, chosen by Nelson Bridwell. I don't have the breakdown yet, but hopefully I will have next month. In addition, it will feature an interview behind the scenes with C.C. Beck, a feature on how to draw the Shazam characters by Beck, fun pages, and a back cover that converts into a diorama. The centerspread is a giant poster of the whole group.

WEIRD WORLDS, instead of being cancelled, is changing format. Howie Chaykin has a created a new sf/s&s hero, Ironwolf, who will be the star. Howie's character graces the cover of this issue in a drawing done especially for TCR. Ironwolf will be a book-length story in #8, and in #9 on will be 15 pages in length. The back-up feature has yet to be chosen.

SWORD OF SORCERY will run at least five issues. If sales reports on the first two or three are go, then it will continue. Otherwise it will be cancelled.



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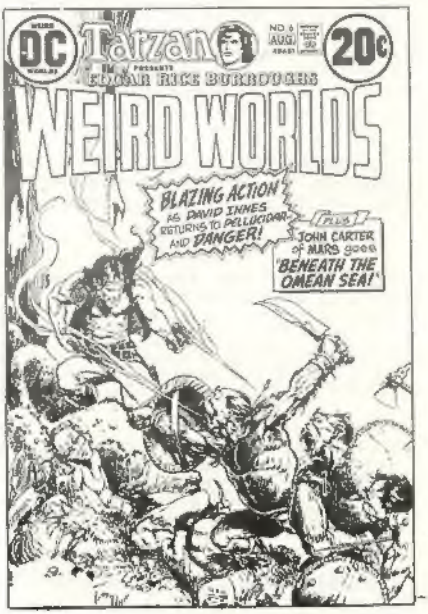

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SIMON & KIRBY's new collaboration, The Sandman, will be released towards the end of the year. It's Simon script, Kirby pencils & editing and Royer inks and lettering. This is a very different Sandman, an immortal who controls a machine that can "weave" dreams.

THE SHADOW hasn't been scheduled yet. Speaking of not being scheduled, the Metropolis edition of Superman isn't set yet either.

Jonah Hex is now the star of Weird Western Tales (thanks to a sales jump since his introduction). His stories will generally be book-lengthers, with El Diablo in the back only when DeZuniga can't handle a full book.

Archie Goodwin will be changing Detective Comics a bit. He will write Batman and Jim Aparo will do the art. Manhunter is definitely the back-up.

Denny O'Neil is now the editor of Forbidden Tales of Dark Mansion. He promises to take it in new directions.

The romance line books are now all bi-monthlies. Actually, this happened a while back but ye ed didn't notice. No points, Levitz!

Dr. 13, The Ghost Breaker, will appear in the back of Adventure Comics #428 and 429 thanks to the miracle of inventory stories. These two were set for Phantom Stranger before the Spawn Of Frankenstein took over.

Speaking of PS, Len Wein has given up the scripting chores to Arnold Drake who is putting PS in a slightly more conventional super-hero style. Jim Aparo is going to take a one or two issue vacation to catch up with his sleep, and then will return to the art chores.

DC SUPER SPECTACULAR DEPT:

The TARZAN issue, #19, will feature four stories reprinted from Russ Manning's Sunday strips. The stories are:

"The Elephant's Guardian", the story of a mysterious spirit who guards the elephants from poachers.

"Prisoners In Opar", as Tarzan goes back to the lost land to rescue some captives of the beast-men.

"How I Met Tarzan", Jane's own story.

"Tarzan's Battle With Time", a beautiful story about the immortal ape-man's battle with time himself.

The BATMAN issue, #20, will be the first all-Golden-Age material.

Batman is represented by his three battles with Two-Face, from Detective Comics #66, 68 & 80.

Dr. Mid-Nite faces a villain called the Tarantula in a story illoed by Alex Toth from All-American #88. (Speaking of Toth, a beautiful story of his is coming up in one of Goodwin's war mags).

Blackhawk by Reed Crandall, Black Canary by Infantino, The Spectre by Bernard Bailey (who is now back at NPP doing mystery stories), Starman by Jack Burnley, and a Wildcat story round out the issue.

Next year's Tarzan volume will probably contain the two 48-page new stories that Manning is doing for overseas distribution.

#21 is going to be a Superboy issue.

Captain Fear will return in a future issue of Adventure Comics.

The Legion Of Super-Heroes, despite the cancellation of their reprint title before any sales figures are in, are getting a new shot at stardom. In response to the heavy mail on the strip, they will be the major feature in Superboy. Most issues will feature a Superboy & The Legion lead story, illoed by Dave Cockrum. Some issues will have book-length Legion stories too. This is much the same way that Adventure Comics was in the early sixties when the Legion first got it's own strip.

Action Comics #425 and 426 will feature three stories each, then the mag will revert to two stories. 425 has Human Target and Atom back-ups, 426 has Target and Green Arrow. Afterwards all three strips will rotate. Dillin is doing the art on GA and some Atom stories.

Batman joins up with The Demon in Brave & Bold #109.

Lois Lane and Supergirl will both feature full-length stories in most issues. A new character, Melba, will back-up Lois Lane some issues and guest star occasionally . Zatanna will appear in Supergirl's strip too.

Mister Miracle gets a young, black assistant in #15.

Frank Robbins will be writing The Unknown Soldier beginning with SSWS #172.

Ric Estrada is the new artist on Wonder Woman.

Secret Origins #4 will feature the origins of the Vigilante and Kid Eternity.

NOW AVAILABLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I GOT SOME EARLY ISSUES OF THE COMIC READER IN QUANITY FROM A FORMER EDITOR THE OTHER DAY, AND I'M MAKING THEM AVAILABLE TO YOU.

IN LIMITED QUANTITY: #50 and #73 at 35¢@. Early news & features issues edited by Rothermich and Hanerfeld, respectively.

IN UNLIMITED QUANTITY: #74, #75, #76 and #77, at 35¢@. These are Mark Hanerfeld's last four issues. They cover the 1968 transition of the comics period. #74 & 75 were mailed together as companion issues and should be ordered as such.

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COMING COMICS

COMING COMICS is a directory of upcoming releases from the various comic art publishers. The "On Sale" dates are those used by the companies themselves and may vary in your area, depending on your local wholesaler. The following is the format of each listing:

TITLE (Number, cover date). A description of the contents including all available information. (On Sale date)

Titles of individual strips are underlined.

THE HULK (164, June). Beginning a two-part story in which The Hulk is captured by Captain Omen, who has been roaming the bottom of the ocean for nearly half a century, living in a giant submarine complete with hundreds of people, mechanical birds, etc. Hulk is forced to slave for him in this story by Steve Englehart, Herb Trimpe and Sal Trapani. (3/6)

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DAREDEVIL (100, June). This issue's special story is "Mind Storm" and the staff hopes that it'll prove to be a special treat for the reader. Take a surreal look back through Daredevil's history to his origin, his enemies, his personal life, as well as an introspective glance at the man himself. Script by Steve Gerber, pencils by Gene Colan, inks by John Tartaglione, and coloring by George Roussos. (3/6)

KID COLT OUTLAW (171, June). (3/6)

CHILI (23, June). (3/6)

MILLIE THE MODEL (202, June). (3/6)

MONSTERS ON THE PROWL (23, June). (3/6)

IRON MAN (59, June). "The Final Triumph Of Firebrand" takes place ir this issue as a new regular female supporting character, Roxy Gilbert, is introduced. She's the daughter of the man who tried to take over Stark Industries a while back. Script by Mike Friedrich, art by George Tuska and Mike Esposito. (3/6)

SHIELD (3, June). Reprinted in this issue: "Nyura Lives" (Strange Tales #150, Lee script, Kirby layouts, John Buscema art) and "Overkill" (#151, Lee script, Kirby layouts, Jim Steranko art). (3/6)

THE CAT (4, June). A fill-in issue by Linda Fite, Jim Starlin and Alan Weiss, pits The Cat against Daredevil's old foe, The Man-Bull. (3/6)

THE OUTLAW KID (16, June). The wind-up of all the plot threads takes place this issue since this is the last issue. "The End Of The Trail" is by Gary Friedrich, Dick Ayers, Jack Abel and Glynis Wein. (3/6)

WYATT EARP (34, June). (3/6)

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GUN-SLINGER (3, June). (3/13)

SPIDER-MAN (121, June). The Green Goblin returns for another battle with Spider-Man, the outcome of which will represent the greatest "Turning Point" in Spidey's life. Script by Gerry Conway, art by Gil Kane and John Romita. Part 1 of 2. Cover by Romita. (3/13)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (162, June). Dr. Faustus returns (it must be old villain month) in "Cap Goes Mad." This issue concludes the story of Sharon's family, reveals the identity of the Lady in Black, and begins a new chapter in Cap's life. Script by Steve Englehart, pencils by Sal Buscema, and inks by John Verpoorten. (3/13)

SUB-MARINER (62, June). War beneath the waves as Dr. Hydro's forces move against Atlantis in "A Realm Besieged." The last panel of this issue's story gives a big hint of things to come in the months ahead. Also: the birth of a new fantasy genre (sword & sorcery & fish) with the first installment of Tales Of Atlantis. Subby by Steve Gerber, Sam Kweskin and Frank Giacoia. TOA by Steve Gerber, Howie Chaykin & Joe Sinnott. (3/13)

THOR (212, June). Wanna see Odin on a slave market auction block? Ssssthgar, the villain in "Journey To A Golden Star" has arranged it. Thor's temporarily back in Asgard this month. Script by Gerry Conway, art by John Buscema and Don Perlin. (3/13)

DOC SAVAGE (5, June). The first half of one of Doc's most famous novels, "The Monsters." Mysterious giant forms are rampaging through Michigan's north woods, and then

come to New York to menace Doc and the crew. Renny gets shot out of the sky, and Monk is nearly electrocuted. Adaptation by Steve Englehart, script by Gardner Fox, art by Ross Andru and Tom Palmer. (3/13)

VAULT OF EVIL (3, June). (3/13)

MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION (11, June). "Four Against The Minotaur" from Avengers #17 introduced the team of Cap, Wanda, Pietro, and Hawkeye. Script by Lee, art by Heck and Ayers. (3/13)

THE X-MEN (82, June). "War In A World Of Darkness" from #34 took the team into the underworld for a war between Tyrannus and The Mole Man. Script by Script by Thomas, art by Adkins. (3/13)

SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL (4, June). A strange dinner party invitation leads Shanna into a confrontation with a villain called The Mandrill. Plot by Carole Seuling, script by Steve Gerber, pencils by Ross Andru, inks by Vince Colletta. (3/13)

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FEAR (14, June). "The Demon Plague" features (a) the whole world going insane; (b) the Man-Thing and Jennifer trapped in the mysterious Mists of Maalock; (c) a universe called Sandt and a wizard called Dakimh; (d) the swamp monster in combat with Mongu the gladiator; or (e) all of the above. The correct answer is (e) and it's all in 16 pages scripted by Steve Gerber, penciled by Val Mayerick, and inked by Chic Stone. A reprint fills out the book. (3/20)

AVENGERS (112, June). The Lion God, legendery foe of the Panther God, comes to NY to wrest the Panther's secrets from T'Challa -- but first he must face the other Avengers, including their new member. Script by Steve Englehart, art by Don Heck (his last) and Frank Bolle. (3/20)

HERO FOR HIRE (10, June). Cage begins his trackdown of the man responsible for the death of Frank Jenks in #5. It takes him back to Jenks' snobbish widow, into an ambush in his office, and finally a death trap in the sewers. Script by Steve Englehart, art by George Tuska and Billy Graham. (3/20)

RAWHIDE KID (112, June). New material by Larry Leiber this month. (3/20)

TOMB OF DRACULA (9, June). Drac, in a weakened condition befriends some humans in a small village and then a

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priest tries to kill him. Script by Marv Wolfman, art by Gene Colan and Vince Colletta. (3/20)

CONAN (27, June). This was actually John Buscema's first Conan art job, as it was originally done as a fill-in issue. "The Blood Jewel Of Bel-Hissar" has a Roy Thomas script with art by John Buscema & Ernie Chua. (3/20)

ASTONISHING TALES (18, June). Ka-Zar vs. The Plunderer, Gemini & Gog in a Savage Land take-off on King Kong. Script by Mike Friedrich, art by Dan Adkins and Frank Charimonte. (3/20)

COMBAT KELLY (7, June). Script by Gary Friedrich, art by Dick Ayers. (3/20)

GUNHAWKS (5, June). The story of Colonel Cutter. Script by Gary Friedrich, art by Syd Shores and Jack Abel. (3/20)

MARVEL TALES (43, June). "Oh, Bitter Victory" from Spidey #60. Script by Lee, layouts by Romita, art by Heck. (3/20)

SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS (4, June). The story of Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde, as told by Ron Goulart and Win Mortimer. (3/20)

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MONSTERS UNLEASHED (1). Solomon Kane in "The Moon Of Skulls" by Roy Thomas, Raplph Reese and Alan Weiss. "The World Of Warlocks", originally for Savage Tales #2, by Gardner Fox and Roy Thomas with art by Gene Colan. Plus Robert Bloch's "The Man Who Cried Werewolf" by Gerry Conway and Pablo Marcos. Plus Atlas reprints and text features as in Dracula Lives!. (3/20)

THE HAUNT OF HORROR (1, June). Marvel invades the pulp digest shelf with a Gerry Conway edited mag. Among the twelve or so text stories are: "Neon" by Harlan Ellison, "Seeing Stingy Ed" by David R. Bunch, "The First Step" by John K. Diomede, and "Loup Garou" by A.A. Attanasio. Gray Morrow cover, Ploog, Simonsen, Colan and Brunner interior spots. (3/20)

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FANTASTIC FOUR (135, June). Gideon and Dragon Man fight the FF in the story of "The Eternity Machine". Script by Gerry Conway, art by John Buscema and Joe Sinnott. (3/27)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (10, June). Part Two of the Kang-Tomorrow Man War is "Time Bomb" and it stars Spidey and The Torch. Script by Gerry Conway, art by Jim Mooney. (3/27)

CRAZY (3, June). From Not Brand Echh #7: The origins of Stuporman & The Fantastical Four. Scripts by Lee & Thomas, art by Kirby and Marie Severin. (3/27)

SGT. FURY (111, June). "Into The Fortress Of Fear" from #39. Thomas and Ayers. (3/27)

OUR LOVE STORY (23, June). (3/27)

LI'L KIDS (12, June). Calvin. (3/27)

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (6, June). "Carnival Of Fear", a circus tale by Len Wein and Mike Ploog. (3/27)

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY (5, June). Ron Goulart & Rich Buckler tell the story of "The Shadow From The Steeple". Plus a story by Chris Clairmont and Don Perlin. (3/27)

JUNGLE ACTION (5, June). The Avengers in "The Monarch & The Man-Ape" from #62 of their mag. Roy Thomas & John Buscema tell this Black Panther-oriented story. (3/27)

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (10, June). The Ghost Rider rides among the Snake People again. Script by Gary Friedrich, pencils by Tom Sutton. (3/27)

THE DEFENDERS (6, June). A second rate magician with delusions of grandeur attacks Doc Strange, Namor, Val, and the Silver Surfer. He loses, but then stumbles on a method that cannot fail and returns to wipe them out. Plus a new pin-up page. Script by Steve Englehart, art by Sal Buscema & Frank McLaughlin. (3/27)

WARLOCK (6, June). Reed Richards, alias The Brute is this issue's super-villain. Plot by Ron Goulart and Roy Thomas, script by Mike Friedrich, and art by Bob Brown and Tom Sutton. (3/27)

GHOSTS (15, June). Stories in this issue: "The Ghost That Wouldn't Die", "The Phantom In The Alamo", "Who Dares Cheat The Dead", and "Hand From The Grave." (3/1)

FALLING IN LOVE (141, July). (3/1)

OUR ARMY AT WAR (257, June). Sgt. Rock continues his Pacific odyssey as he tries to rejoin Easy Co. The back-up is probably a DD779 - U.S. Stevens story by Sam Glanzman. (3/1)

WONDER WOMAN (206, July). The Amazon Princess learns the secret of Nubia in "The War Of The Wonder Women." It's a book-length story by Cary Bates, Don Heck and Vince Colletta. (3/1)

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THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (107, July). Batman teams-up with The Black Canary in "The Three Million Dollar Sky", a book-length story scripted by Bob Haney and illoed by Jim Aparo. (3/6)

G.I. COMBAT (161, June). The Haunted Tank begins a two-part adventure on "The Day Of The Goth." Script by Archie Goodwin, art by Sam Glanzman. Plus a Battle Album feature by Gray Morrow and "Push Button War", a Viet Nam War story scripted by Gerry Boudreau and drawn by Dan Green. (3/6)

WANTED (8, July). Enter a villain who can change shape as Mr. Who takes on Dr. Fate for the first time in a story from More Fun Comics #73. Plus the modern Flash in "The Big Freeze" from #114 of his mag. Art by Carmine Infantino. (3/6)

MISTER MIRACLE (14, July). The escape artist takes on a Satan-worshipping cult led by Madame Evil Eyes in "The Quick And The Dead." Script & pencils by Jack Kirby, inks by Mike Royer. (3/6)

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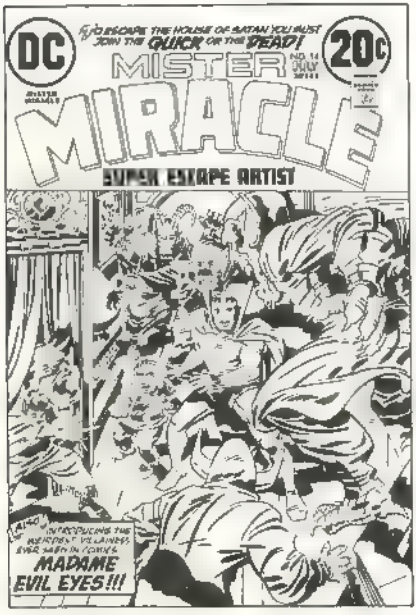
THE PHANTOM STRANGER (25, July). The Stranger fades back into the background in this issue's mystery lead, "The Dance Of The Serpent." Script by Len Wein, art by Jim Aparo. Plus another part of the saga of The Spawn of Frankenstein by Marv Wolfman and Mike Kaluta. Cover by Luis Dominquez. (3/8)

WITCHING HOUR (31, June). In this issue: "Red Is For Dead", "A Badge Of Courage" and "The Scent Of Death". (3/8)



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SUPERMAN (264, June). This issue's lead introduces Steve Lombard, WGBS' new sportscaster, a former quarterback who wore the number 12. "The Secret Of The Phantom Quarterback" is scripted by Cary Bates, drawn by Curt Swan & Murphy Anderson. Plus the World of Krypton: "The Headband Warriors of Krypton". Script by Elliot Maggin, art by Dave Cockrum. Cover by Cardy. (3/8)

LOIS LANE (131, June). Lois stars in "Superman, Marry Me!" by Cary Bates, John Rosenberger and Vince Colletta. Rounding out the book, due to deadline hassles, is a reprint of Lois in "The Superwoman Of Metropolis". (3/8)

KORAK, SON OF TARZAN (52, July). Korak's search takes him to an island where "The Outcasts" live; freaks who have hidden there from the rest of the world. Script by Bob Kanigher, art by Murphy Anderson beginning with this issue. Plus Carson in "A Princess Of Venus", with script & art by Mike Kaluta. (3/8)

* * *

100-PAGE SUPER-SPECTACULAR (17, June). This issue features two Justice League of America tales: "Drones Of The Queen Bee" and "Card Crimes of The Royal Flush Gang" from #s 23 & 43, respectively. Both have Gardner Fox scripts and Mike Sekowsky art. Then The Justice Society of America takes on "The Injustice Society of the World" in a full-length story from All-Star Comics #37. Plus a Sandman story from the gas-mask days. Cover by Nick Cardy. (3/13)

WEIRD WAR TALES (14, June). In this issue: "Dream Of Disaster", "Phantom For A Co-Pilot", "Too Late For The Death March", and "The Ghost of McBride's Woman." (3/13)

JIMMY OLSEN (158, June). Kurt Schaffenberger takes over the inking chores (in addition to the pencilling) with this issue. The stories are: "The Jaws Of The Jaguar" and "Kiss Off For Mr. Action." Scripts by Leo Dorfman. (3/13)

(c) 1973 National Periodical Publications

KAMANDI (6, June). More of the saga of "Flower", including a rather surprising ending. Plus a war between the zoo cats and the native american cats (pumas and the like). Script & pencils by Jack Kirby, inks by Mike Royer. (3/13)

* * *

YOUNG LOVE (104, July). This issue features an unusual story about a Viet Nam veteran and a nun, "Veil Of Love." (3/15)

BATMAN (249, June). The story of the underworld's arsenal unfolds in "The Citadel Of Crime." Script by Frank Robbins, art by Irv Novick and Dick Giordano. Robin flies solo in "The Case Of The Kidnapped Crusader", which features the return of the consumer crusader introduced a while back. Script by Elliot Maggin, art by Bob Brown and Frank McLaughlin. (3/15)

SHAZAM! (3, June). What happens when Billy Batson complains to the wizard Shazam that he's been cheated out of the right to grow up? Why "A Switch In Time", of course. Script by Denny O'Neil, art by C.C. Beck. Then comes the story of the world's greatest inventor, who calls a press confrence to announce that he's invented the world's greates invention -- but won't tell anyone what it is! "The Wizard Of Phonograph Hill" is by Elliot Maggin and C.C. Beck. The cover story is a reprint of The Marvel Family in "The Witches' Tale" from #4 of their magazine (April 1946). (3/15)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (214, June). In this issue: "Deadly Payment", "The Death Clock", and "The Shaggy Dog". (3/15)

* * *

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN (80, July). The last issue of this title. The reprint is a book-length Kirby story from Showcase #11 -- "The Day The Earth Blew Up". New Cardy cover. (3/20)

LOVE STORIES (150, July). (3/20)

SUPERBOY (195, June). Superboy investigates "The Rock 'N' Roll Riddle Of Smallville" in this issue. Script by Leo Dorfman, art by Bob Brown and Murphy Anderson. Plus The Legion Of Super-Heroes in "The One Shot Hero". Script by Cary Bates, art by Dave Cockrum. Cover by Nick Cardy. (3/20)

OUR FIGHTING FORCES (143, July). No info on this issue other than the fact that it is Joe Kubert's last issue of The Losers. Script by Bob Kanigher, art by John Severin. (3/20)

STRANGE ADVENTURES (242, July). Adam Strange in "The World War On Earth And Rann", a Fox-Infantino-Anderson story reprinted from Mystery In Space #82. Plus "Lost -- 100,000 Years" by Gardner Fox and Sid Greene. (3/22)

HOUSE OF SECRETS (108, June). In this issue: "Act III Eternity" by George Kashdan and Jodloman. "A New Kid On The Block" by Maxene Fabe and Rico Rival, and "Ghost Writer" by Bill Riley and Gerry Taloc. (3/22)

UNEXPECTED (147, June). In this issue: "The Daughter Of Dr. Jekyll", "The Totem's Threat", and "The Terrible Wheel Of Fate". (3/22)

FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION (11, July). In this issue: "A Demon At The Door", "Bum Wrap" and "Generation Gap." (3/22)

* * *

WEIRD MYSTERY TALES (6, July). In this issue: "The Chosen One", "Even The Dead Shall Laugh" by George Kashdan and Alex Nino, and "The Third Eye" by Riley, Jacobson, and Yandoc. (3/27)

THE DEMON (9, June). The second of three parts. The origin of the madness of the Phantom of the Sewers is told in this issue, plus there's a long flashback to a middle ages adventure of The Demon to add to the action. Script and pencils by Jack Kirby, inks by Mike Royer. (3/27)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (170, June). The Unknown Soldier learns that "Legends Don't Die" in a story by Archie Goodwin and Jack Sparling. "UFM" is a science-fiction war story by two of the new pros, Gerry Boudreau (script) and Walt Simonsen (an exceptional new artist). Plus a Warrior page by Sam Glanzman. (3/27)

DOOM PATROL (124, July). The last issue of The DP features a reprint of "The Enemy Within The Doom Patrol" from #90. (3/27)

* * *

SUPERGIRL (5, June). Supergirl meets "The Devil's Brother" in a story by Arnold Drake, Artie Saaf and Vince Colletta. Plus a reprint (again, deadline hassles) of the first appearance of Zatanna, a story from Hawkman #4 entitled "The Girl Who Split In Two" by Gardner Fox and Murphy Anderson. Cover by Bob Oskner. (3/29)

G.I. WAR TALES (2, July). Neal Adams' contribution to the saga of The War That Time Forgot, "The Killing Ground" is reprinted in this issue. The back-up is "Suicide Volunteer" by Joe Kubert. (3/29)

(c) 1973 National Periodical Publications

ACTION COMICS (424, June). The Flash's mortal foe takes on Superman in "Gorilla Grodd's Grandstand Play", Script by Elliot Maggin, art by Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson. Plus The Green Arrow in "The Candy Kitchen Caper." Script by Elliot Maggin, art by Dick Dillin and Dick Giordano. (3/29)

TARZAN OF THE APES (220, June). The Ape Man is in Algeria this issue, hunting for a traitor in the French army. This is book 2 of Joe Kubert's adaptation of "The Return Of Tarzan" by Burroughs. The story is 18 pages long, and is followed by a photo & fact feature section. (3/29)

DETECTIVE COMICS (435, July). "The Spook Strikes Again", a sequel to last issue's story and an explanation of all the mysterious goings on. This Batman story is a Frank Robbins script job with Irv Novick and Dick Giordano art. In the back there's a Jason Bard adventure, "The Case Of The Dead-On Target". That's a Frank Robbins story & art job. The cover is by Dick Giordano. (3/29)

ET AL

UNDERGROUNDS - - FANZINES

CONVENTIONS - - CLIPPINGS

EAST COAST COMIX's first EC reprint will be mailed out around February 28th. It is currently at the printer. The second book is targeted for April 15th. Subscription copies, at least on the first issue, will be mailed flat in an envelope with cardboard backing.

RUSS HEATH is doing a two page story for one of Krupp's undergrounds. It is a take off on Corben's work. He is also doing work for Cracked and Gallery (#2).

The first GERMAN COMICON will be held in Berlin (West) on April 21 to 23. There will be talks, a panel discussion, film showings, dealers' tables, and awards. The comicon will be organized by INCOS, the German comic fan organization which was founded in 1970. Every fan and pro is invited to attend.

Duffy Vohland is now working for Dan Adkins and lists his new address as: 165 Center Street, East Liverpool, Ohio 43920.

New York's FM station WRVR is running old time radio shows from 7:30 to 8:00 weeknights. Here's the list:

Monday: Gangbusters
Tuesday: Lone Ranger
Wednesday: The Shadow
Thursday: Fibber McGee
Friday: Sherlock Holmes

That's 106.7 FM, folks.

According to Locus, the science-fiction fandom equivalent of TCR, Weird Tales is being revived under the editorial hand of Sam Moskowitz. It will be a pulp-format quarterly at 75¢ per copy. The first issue will feature about twelve stories and some previously unpublished Finlay art.

Howie Chaykin has a board game that he'd like to recommend to all you war games/sf freaks. It's "4000 AD" and it's a French game that's been translated into English and is now available here in the USA. Howie got his at F.G.A. Schwartz. It features space wars, warps, and tons of other sf ideas and supposed to be one of the best war games around.

ACE BOOKS will be issuing four ERB books never before released in paperback form soon. No titles are set yet.

Gary Groth is publishing a magazine of sf and comic strips. There will be two versions of the mag, a fanzine and an underground. The fanzine version, tentatively slated for early August, will contain three stories: one written by Jim Wilson and drawn by Robert Kline, one written by Martin Pasko and drawn by Berni Wrightson, and an adaptation of a Harlan Ellison story by Jim Wilson, but no artist has yet been selected. The underground version will hopefully be out in late August or early September, and will simply be a reprint of the fanzine. The artwork on the Wilson/Kline story is complete at this writing.

The Maryland Mini Con advertised in this issue will have a fanzine sales service table. Contact Joel Pollack at the address on the ad.

I neglected to mention who was doing those undergrounds I mentioned last month is the "Comix" section. To correct that oversight, it is Krupp Comic Book Works at POB 5699, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211. Copies are available directly. The nice Spirit illo gracing the top of page 17 is the cover of their Spirit underground. Further notes on their books follow:

Mickey Rat #1 (the revised edition) will be delayed about a month. It has been replaced on the February schedule by Pagfeak Papers, a book drawn entirely by a new cartoonist, Mark Morrison.

Other titles are near completion, most notably Bijou #8 which is the full-color issue. It features a parody on two levels. On one level it parodies the early Kurtzman Mad. On the other it is a series of parodies of underground cartoonists by each other. Lynch parodies Shelton, Crumb parodies Lynch, Williamson parodies Crumb, Clyne parodies Corben, Kitchen parodies Clyne, etc. The book is about half done and has no definite release date.

(c) 1973 Will Eisner

Mike Friedrich and Bob Sidebottom are publishing some underground comics. Their most notable project is a Roy Thomas-Barry Smith Bran Mak Morn book which will be out at an undetermined future date.

Doug Murray reports that the Heritage is going to be publishing some Moroto posters, Frazetta and Corben prints, the ACBA sketchbook and distributing full-color Warp posters.

Frazetta is working on a cover for a "Sons Of Conan" anthology for lancer.

National Lampoon was the subject of a NY Times Sunday Magazine section article on December 10, 1972.

Reportedly Bill Schelly's fanzine, Sense Of Wonder, is being dropped after the 12th issue due to Bill heading for college.

The second set of Spirit reprints from Spirit Publications is out and should be in the mail (and maybe even in your hands if you ordered them) by the time this issue of TCR comes out. The repro remains fairly good, although the June 23rd section remains missing from the collection.

July Con plans roll along nicely, and the Program Book is now ready to accept ads. A few facts about advertising can be found on page 18, but the most important fact is that it is very important for you to get your ads in early if you are planning to advertise.We'll have more time to do production work on the early ads, and hence we'll put those ads in the better spots. I don't have to tell you what a good place the book is to advertise in, so move yourself.

WARP, the play with Neal Adams scenery and costumes opened here in New York a few days back. All the comic and sf people who attended walked away very pleased, and most will probably return for the second and third parts of the play (it is a serial, with the cast changing plays every month). A longer review will appear in Etcetera #2.

THE MONSTER TIMES DEPT:

#21 will feature Frankenstein, including a feature on Frankenstein in the comics up to and including today.

#22 will feature 6 pages of Basil Wolverton, including 7 new illos, a 3 page article by him and a 3 page article on him.

The Best Of The Monster Times #1 will be 75¢ with a full-color wrap-around cover. It'll be 64 pages including 12 pages of new material on the Hunchback, a good story by Bill Nelson.

Collectors Issue#1 will be $1 and distributed only here in NYC. There's some Star Trek material, 6 color pages, and a feature on Monsters In The Comics. In the future collectors' issues won't be as expensive.

WARREN NEWS

Unfortunately, due to Bill DuBay being out of town as this issue goes to print, we have a very abridged Warren section. My apologies, people.

COMING COMICS:

VAMPIRELLA #24 (March 13th). Vampi goes "Into The Inferno". Plus "Middle-AM", the story of a world where the young are put to death by the old simply because they are young.

FAMOUS MONSTERS #98 (March 15th). Featuring a cover by an undiscovered 18-year old fan artist.

CREEPY #59 (March 20th). Two of the stories are "A Descent Into Tartarus" and "The Night The Creatures Attacked".

NEWS NOTES: Both Alex Toth and Russ Heath are working on new stories for Warren. Surprises due from Warren in April, details next issue.

The cover above is a rough paste-up of the cover for the $1 edition of Shazam. As the book is going through production much more quickly than an ordinary comic (most comics now in production will be out in June, this one will probably be out in April) I figured a look at this would please everyone. The cover is (c) 1973 National Periodical Publications.

(c) 1973 National Periodical Publications, Inc.

LATE NEWS NOTES:

Ross Andru will be pencilling a fill-in issue of Conan The Barbarian.

* * *

This year's JLA-JSA story will take the teams to a "Crisis On Earth-X". Earth-X is a world where the Nazis won World War Two and conquered the whole world, except for a group of freedom fighters. The freedom fighters might be familiar to you. Their names are: Uncle Sam, Doll Man, The Phantom Lady, The Ray, The Black Condor, and so forth. There's also a panel of the Blackhawks, just so that Dick Dillin could get a chance to draw them again. The two parts will appear in #107 & 208. I've seen some of Dillin's pencils and it is among his best work.

* * *

Neal Adams finally handed in his Batman Vs. Joker story and it has been scheduled for the very near future.

* * *

Behind The Scenes, a feature page somewhat on the order of The Wonderful World Of Comics, will be appearing in most DC books starting in April.

FANZINE REVIEWS

LAM O'CONNOR

SENSE OF WONDER 12

CAPT. GEORGE'S WHIZZBANG

SENSE OF WONDER #12.

This is a very good fanzine and one of the most enjoyable mags that I've read in a long time.

The cover is a Don Newton illo of Yarmak, a Tarzan-like character who is also the subject of a report in the issue.

John T. Ryan reports on Yarmak, the fearless one, who was an australian comic book hero of the forties and fifties. It gives a very long history of the character. The comic strip was done by Stanley & Reginald Pitt, among other people. It is a very nice piece of research and writing, and is spotted with illos from the strip.

Next is Gully Foyle by Stan Pitt, a try-out for a comic strip feature. Included are two pages of the art plus a short text report on the strip. Also included in this section are a few days of Secret Agent Corrigan by Pitt, when he was subbing for Williamson.

A strip by Joe Wehrle, Jr without any words is a nice job, but has a very predictable (albeit pleasant) ending.

Bob Cosgrove (the editor of Champion) contributes "Jack Kirby: Modern Mythologist", a psychological examination of Kirby's Fourth World series, and its mythology and symbolism. This is an excellent feature, and is up to Bob's usual high standards of writing.

Ryan contributes another article, this time on Will Eisner and his works. This is a fantastic and detailed report and is a must for any Eisner freak, or for that matter anyone who simply enjoys good comic book art.

Next is the Phantom Comic Strip. The art on this one is non-existent, but the jokes are good.

Next comes a Doc Wertham pin-up poster for all good comic freaks to stick pins in.

Rounding out the issue is a reprint article on Russ Manning's career before he started on Tarzan.

In general, an interesting zine worth anyone's time.

SOW #12 is 75¢ per copy (40 8½ x 11 pages). Order from: William C. Schelly, 2211 Carol Drive, Lewiston, Idaho 83501.

CAPT GEORGE'S WHIZZBANG #14:

If you are a nostalgia buff, or into the pulps, old radio shows, old movies or serials, then I suggest that you get Captain George's Whizzbang.

This issue's contents are fairly typical. The continuing features are: the Checklist, which features short reviews of recent movies, books, periodicals, and other items of nostalgic interest; more indepth book reviews in the fields of comics and science fiction; a centerfold spread by Dereck Carter; a page of reprints of Canadian comics from the forties; letters; and a column about television. All are very interesting and well-written.

The pulp under discussion this month is Operator Five. It was, according to the author, "the best or the worst pulp hero, depending on your point of view." He believed in America and would do anything for it, including getting beaten up, kidnapped, and other fun things. This article is one of the best written features on Operator Five and it concludes with a checklist of the pulps.

Monte London, an old western star, talks to Don Daynard (of the staff) about the old western pictures. Very nice.

Roy Rogers and Gene Autrey and their work is the subject of the next article. The feature is full of information.

Reprints of old movie ads round out the issue. I'm sure you'll be disappointed if you don't buy this issue.

CGW #14 is 60¢ (or 10 for $5) from The Vast Whizzbang Organization, 594 Markham Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This issue, in case any one out there is really interested, marks two years in the monthly newszine racket for me (nine issues of Etcetera, seventeen issues of The Comic Reader, counting this one). It's kind of nice to look back on, although I do feel kind of "doomed" by it. I get the feeling that if I ever dropped TCR I'd be haunted by news items for the rest of my days. Oh well.

The 100th issue rapidly progresses. Namely I haven't done a damned thing on it since the summer. But at least your ideas were helpful. The issue, as my plans now stand, will probably cost a bit more than 33¢, so I'm gonna have to figure out <u>something</u> to balance the budget. I remain very open to suggestions.

Beginning with this issue, I think you're going to see a dramatic upgrading of the quality of TCR's covers. This issue we have Howie Chaykin's character sketch of a new DC feature star, and in the future you can look forward to work by Kirby and Wrightson, among others. This is a part of the general graphic upgrading of TCR that I've been attempting. For instance, the nice new type that starts this issue courtesy of SCM. There's a TCR logo in the works too, The logo is a Gaspar Saladino creation. For those poor, uninformed souls in our midst, he's probably the best letterer in the business (or at least most of ACBA thinks so, judging from his Shazam awards).

On other projects:

<u>Etcetera</u> has distributed about 900 copies as I type this, or most of its print run, and the second issue is in the works. Our target date for #2 is April 20th. You'll probably be seeing some pros doing articles for <u>Etcetera</u> by #3, and perhaps a strip per issue also. A <u>Mr. A</u> strip is definitely in the works.

<u>True Fan Adventure Theater</u> is going a bit slower, because editor Tony Isabella has gotten a bit tied-up at Marvel. As TCR goes to print, so does True FAT, and it should be in your hands about a week after this issue (the Post Office willing).

Happy Valantine's Day & See Ya At Star Trek (TCR Pubs has table space)!

As most of you probably know, I'm producing the 1973 Comic Art Convention Program Book. The ad rates were set up this past week, so for anyone who is planning on advertising, here are the details:

AD DEADLINE: APRIL 1

RATES

SIZE OF AD	PRO*	FAN
FULL PAGE	$65	$45
HALF PAGE	$35	$25

* PRO means anyone who is making his living off his comic business. It applies to dealers whose prime business is comics and related items and the larger fanzine publishing outfits.

PRINTED SIZE OF AD: 5½" x 8½"
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We prefer not to do halftone work. However, for an extra charge of $2.50 we will screen your ad.

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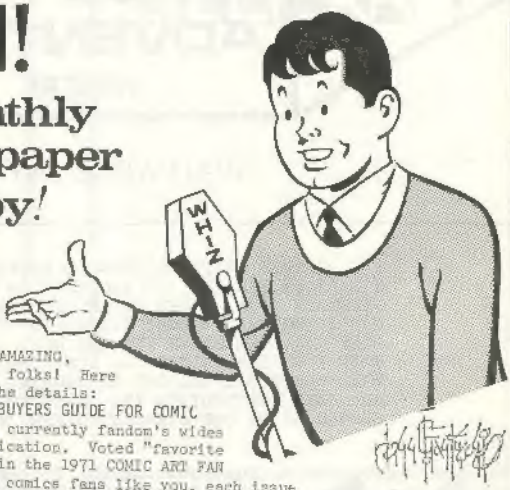
A TCR BONUS: THE STORY BEHIND THE COVER

Last issue, Paty & Duffy propounded the problem of what would happen if Animal Man, a DC hero who draws his powers from surrounding animals had to fight a scorpion in the desert. They thought it represented his toughest challenge.

Carl Gafford, better known to fandom as The Wolf, the editor of Minotour who is expected to turn pro after a new, answered this question/problem when he came into New York for a visit this month. It was squeezed off the cover, but I thought you'd like to see it. Animal Man is a copyright character of N.P.P., Inc.

FLASH!

A twice-monthly fandom newspaper for 9¢ a copy!



SHAZAM! AMAZING, but TRUE, folks! Here are all the details:

THE BUYERS GUIDE FOR COMIC FANDOM is currently fandom's wides read publication. Voted "favorite fanzine" in the 1971 COMIC ART FAN AWARDS by comics fans like you, each issue is a big 40 newspaper sized pages. The "Guide" is mainly advertising, and carries twice as much as any other fanzine. And not only will the ads keep you in touch with the very heart of fandom, but you'll enjoy the continuing columns and poster-sized covers on each issue, too!

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"A PRINCESS OF CLEVELAND" is the heart warming story of comic book fan Pam Collins' journey to the American Princess Beauty Contest, and the fannush things that happen to her on her way. Authored by editor Tony (the Pro) Isabella.

"1000%", the story of a comic book fan who achieves the pinnacle of political success, only to have his triumph torn from him when his sinful past is revealed to the world. Scripted by Jeff (The Phandom Stranger) Anderson and drawn by Carl (The Gaff) Gafford.

"A DREAM OF FANDOM", a way-out tale of comic book fans leading a revolt against the dictator of Mars -- the demonic Count Rookoffski! Story by Dwight (The Doc) Decker and Cal (Haven't we been through this before) Gafford and Joe (Remember me?) Jenkins.

"NONE DARE CALL IT DITTO", the right guard taken on the fan pirate in a story by Dwight (Not again) Decker,

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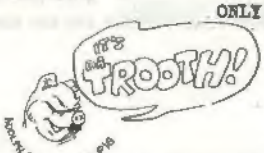

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ETCETERA 1

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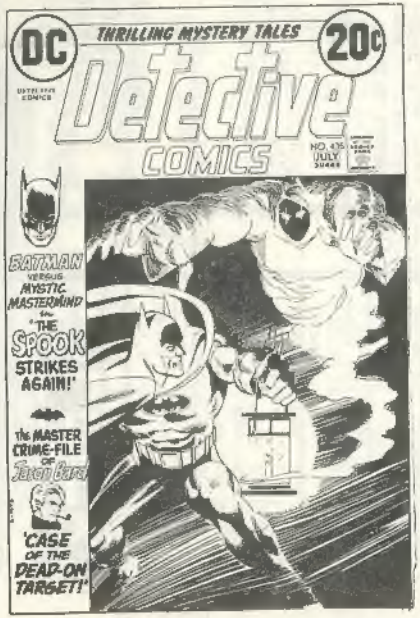

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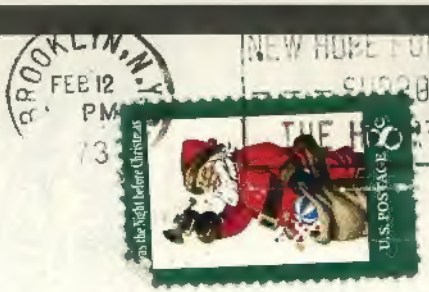

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